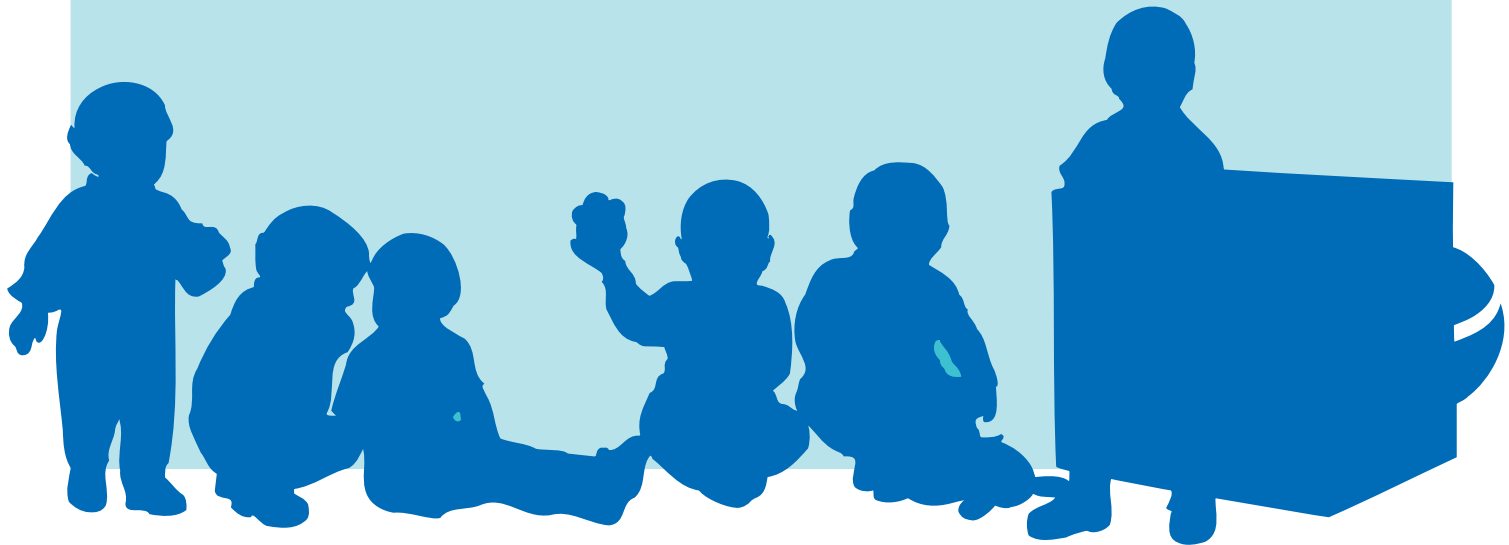


# HEARING & SPEECH

A Guide to Your Baby's Development



# A Booklet for Parents

All babies and young children go through a series of steps as they grow up. These include developing their emotional and physical abilities as well as learning how to listen, see, speak and think. Babies and young children are all different. They may go through these steps in different, individual ways. Some differences depend on the child's own physical and emotional make-up. The family's life-style may affect a child's development, too. Usually, steps occur within a definite time period or by a certain age.

This booklet outlines steps in a child's hearing and speaking development. It tells you:

- when certain steps occur
- what you can do to stimulate your child's normal development, and
- what to do if you suspect your child is not going through the steps.

Remember that it is a guide. Your child may



show differences that are not unusual or alarming. If you do suspect a problem, be sure to contact one of the agencies or individuals listed below. In any case, enjoy your child and his/her growing process.

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## Children can be tested from the first week of life.

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Information on your child's hearing can be arranged by calling or writing:

\* ***Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

P.O. Box 45300

Olympia, WA 98504-5300

(360) 902-8000 • Voice/TTY

(800) 422-7930 • Voice/TTY (toll-free)

\* ***Community Service Center  
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

1609 19th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98122

(206) 322-4996 • Voice/TTY

\* ***Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals  
with Disabilities***

6315 South 19th Street

Tacoma, WA 98466

(877) 53-TACID • Voice (toll-free)

(877) 551-3323 • TTY (toll-free)

\* ***Eastern Washington Center  
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

North 1206 Howard Street

Spokane, WA 99201

(509) 328-9220 • Voice/TTY

\* ***Northwest Washington Service Center  
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

1111 Holly Street, Suite G

Bellingham, WA 98225

(360) 738-4908 • Voice/TTY

\* ***Southwest Washington Service Center  
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

1715 Broadway Street

Vancouver, WA 98663

(360) 695-3364 • Voice

(360) 695-9720 • TTY

\* ***Southeastern Washington Service Center  
of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing***

124 North 5th Street

Pasco, WA 99301

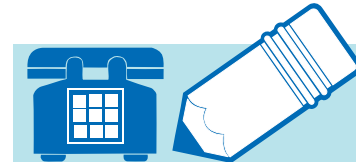
(800) 294-9649 • TTY (toll-free)

(800) 543-6598 • Voice (toll-free)

\* ***Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies***

(800) 322-2588 Voice (toll-free)

(800) 833-6388 TTY (toll-free)



# By 1 Month

SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS  
MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Cries.
2. Startles to loud, sudden noise.
3. Makes throaty sounds.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS  
OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT THE  
BABY'S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC  
HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

# By 3 Months

SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS  
MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Makes vowel sounds like "ooh", "ah".
2. Whimpers, squeals and chuckles.
3. Listens to voices.
4. Sometimes quiets to familiar voices.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS  
OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT THE BABY'S  
DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH  
OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

1. Talk to your baby while rocking or cuddling him/her.
2. Wind up a musical toy to put in your baby's bed.
3. Talk to your baby during his/her most important times: feeding, dressing, bathing and changing diapers.

ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Imitate your baby's sounds: coos, sighs, gurgles.
2. Sing or hum to your baby while rocking or holding him/her closely.
3. Continue talking to your baby during his/her most important times: feeding, dressing, bathing and changing diapers.
4. Let your baby hear you before seeing you: knock on the door or call his/her name before entering the room.
5. Provide listening times with soft music when your baby is quiet.

# By 6 Months

## SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Babbles to self (“baba”, “gaga”, “ma”).
2. Squeals with excitement.
3. Has a few consonant sounds such as f, m, n mixed in with vowel sounds.
4. Tries to imitate changes in voice pitch.
5. Turns head toward sound source.
6. Cries differently for discomfort, pain or hunger.

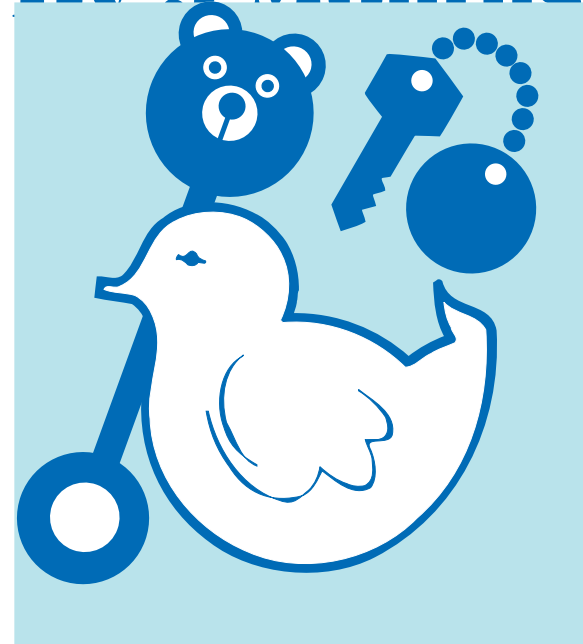
IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT THE BABY’S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

## ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Continue to repeat your baby’s new sounds: “da-da”, “ma-ma”, “ga”. This is called babbling.
2. Your baby will enjoy playing with noisy toys and rattles. You may want to attach bells to his/her booties.
3. Continue to talk to your child while feeding, dressing, bathing and changing diapers.

4. Your baby will enjoy playing games such as “Peak-A-Boo” and “Patty-Cake”.
5. Call your baby’s name; see if she/he can turn toward your direction.

# By 9 Months



## SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Imitates speech sounds of other people.
2. Stops when “no-no” or name is said.
3. Acts differently to friendly or angry talking.
4. Changes pitch of own voice.
5. Will turn head toward sound source and locate source if at eye level or below.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS  
OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT THE BABY’S  
DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH  
OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

## ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Your baby will enjoy imitating your voice



pattern. Use “uh-oh” when appropriate and listen to what happens! Continue to imitate his/her babbling.

2. Be sure to respond to your baby’s vocalizations. He/she is talking to you!
3. Your baby will enjoy listening to rhymes, songs and finger plays. She/he may even try the motions with you.
4. Make sounds around the room; watch your baby go find them.
5. Talk to you baby about what you’re doing. He/she wants to talk to you.

# By 12 Months

## SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Uses one word correctly besides “ma-ma” or “da-da”.
  2. Stirs or wakes when sleeping quietly and there is a loud sound or someone is talking nearby.
  3. Gives toy when asked for it.
  4. Responds to music or singing.
  5. Will locate sound source if presented above or below eye level.
3. Play music. Your child will like to “dance”.
  4. Talk about and play with toy animals. Your child can say what the animals say: “Bow-wow”, “meow”, “moo-o-o”.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT THE BABY’S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

### ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Looking in the mirror is always fun. Point out facial and/or body parts on you and your child. Ask “Where’s your nose?” He/she will need help.
2. Look at picture books with your child. Talk about the pictures.



# By 15 Months

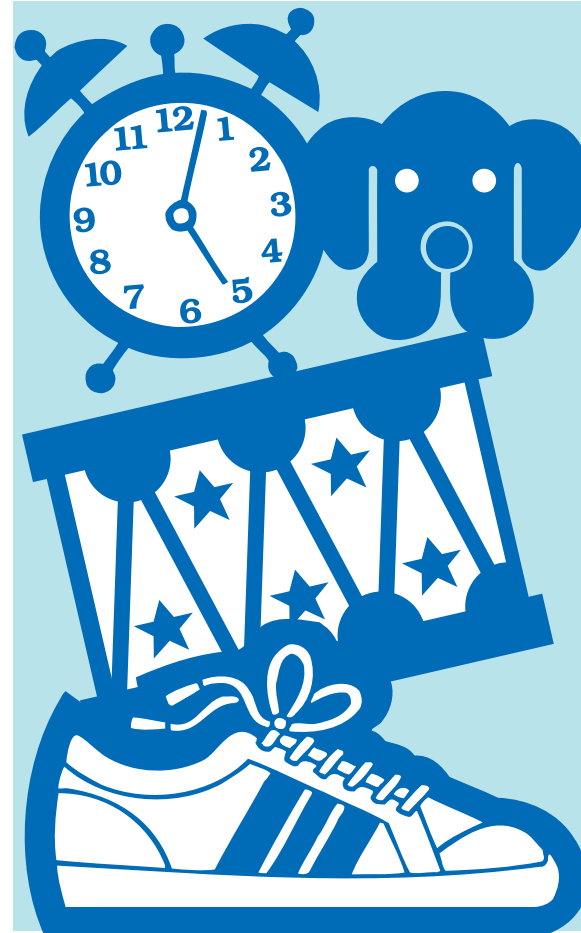
## SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Identifies familiar object when named, such as “shoe”.
2. Uses 3 or 4 words correctly besides “ma-ma” or “da-da”.
3. Imitates adults’ vocal patterns.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT YOUR BABY’S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

### ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Your baby may enjoy listening to clocks and watches. Show him/her how to rock to the “tick-tock” sound. You could also do this with rhythm instruments.
2. Ask your baby to repeat the names of objects before he/she can have them: cookie, drink, milk.
3. Play “Hide ‘n Seek”. Hide a toy behind your back or under a blanket. “Where is it?” Talk about what you’re doing.





# By 18 Months

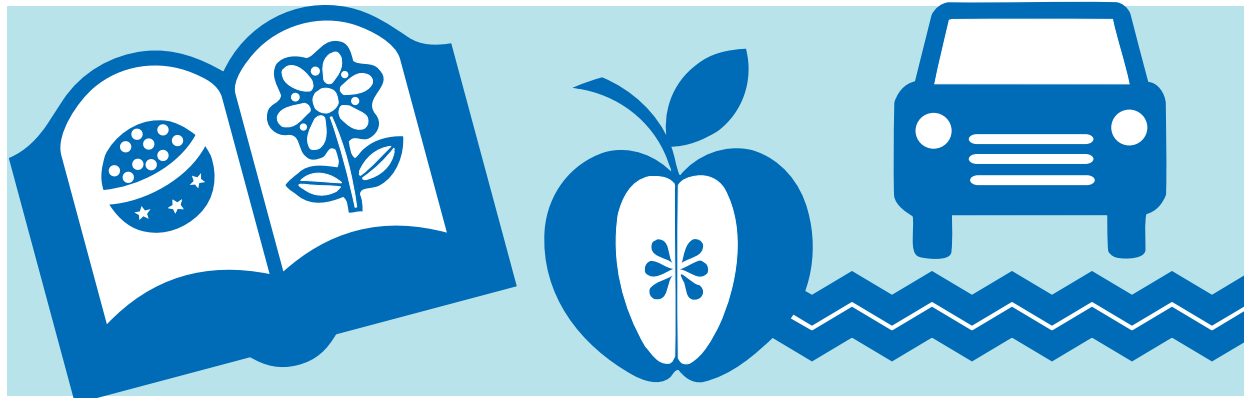
## SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Identifies familiar pictures when named.
2. Indicates wants by naming object (e.g., cookie, drink).
3. Can correctly match sound to object (e.g., “ding-dong” to the doorbell).

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS  
OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT YOUR  
BABY’S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC  
HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

## ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Now when you look at picture books, ask your child to point out pictures. “Where’s the cow?”
2. Include your child in things around the house. Have him/her help dust or make the bed. Talk about what you’re doing!
3. Play ball. Your child will enjoy rolling and throwing the ball.
4. When the doorbell rings, let your child go to the door. Have Daddy honk the horn when he comes home. See what happens!
5. “Hide ‘n Seek” is still fun. Take turns hiding.



# By 21 Months

SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Follows simple directions.
2. Will point to 3-5 body parts when named.
3. Uses a combination of words and nonsense when talking.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT YOUR BABY'S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

## ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Give your child simple directions. "Put your baby to sleep. She's sleepy." Make it fun.
2. Play with a toy telephone. Your baby will enjoy imitating your speech patterns.
3. Listening to music is fun. Clap, march, sing, beat a drum or dance to music. Let the whole family join in!



# By 24 Months

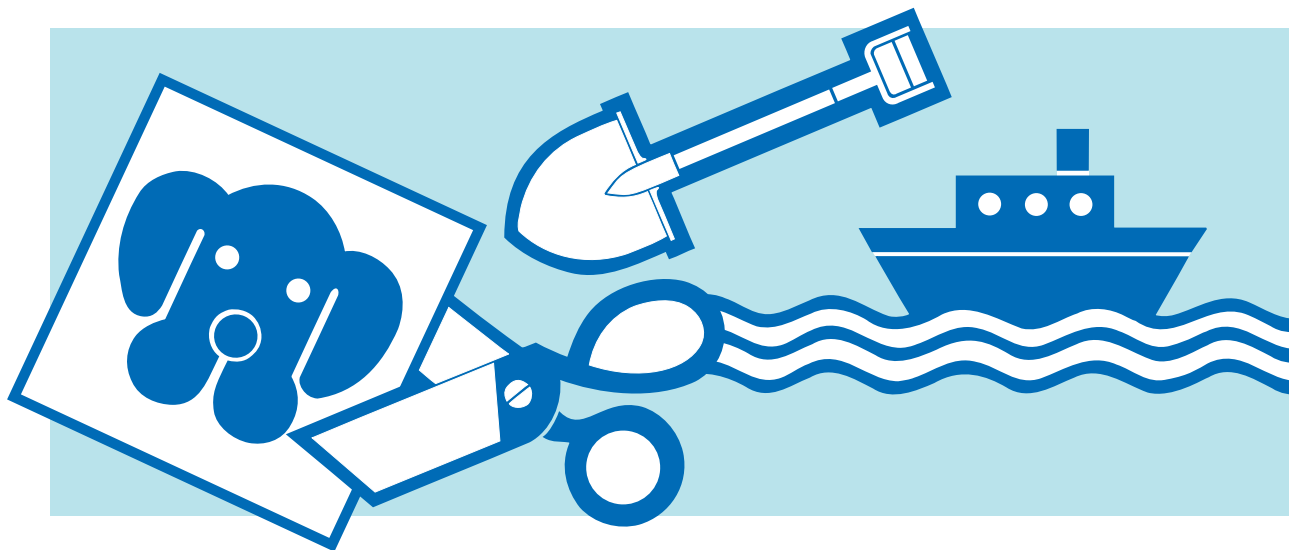
SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SKILLS MOST BABIES DEVELOP

1. Picks a requested object from a choice of 5 known items.
2. Refers to self by name.
3. Occasionally uses a 2- or 3-word sentence.

IF YOUR BABY NEVER DOES THESE THINGS OR DOES ONLY ONE, CONTACT YOUR BABY'S DOCTOR AND/OR YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE AND ASK ABOUT IT.

## ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

1. Water play is fun! Make bubbles, wash a baby doll, play with toys in the tub.
2. Include your child in making cookies, washing the car, digging in the yard. It may take more time, but it will be fun for him/her.
3. Cut out pictures for a scrapbook. Help your child paste all the trucks on one page, all the animals on another page.



***DSHS 22-357 (Rev. 2/02)***

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